GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4239
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Environmental Clearance for Secondary Minerals
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory to take environmental clearance for the mines of secondary minerals in the country including Madhya Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government is aware that this procedure takes much time and the prices of minerals go up due to their unavailability as a result of the same and local people face difficulty in getting employment;
(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the time limit for environmental clearance and expedite its procedure; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which deals with the process to grant Environmental Clearance. The projects of mining of minerals as stated in the schedule of the Notification require prior environment clearance.
In pursuance to the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Deepak Kumar etc. versus State of Haryana and Others etc., prior environmental clearance has now become mandatory for mining of minor minerals irrespective of the area of mining lease. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, vide its order dated the 13th January, 2015 has directed for making a policy on environmental clearance for mining leases in cluster for minor minerals.
The MoEFCC vide notification dated 15.01.2016, for the first time, has delegated the Authority of Environmental Clearance up to 5 hectares of individual mining lease of minor minerals and 25 hectares in clusters to the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) headed by the District Magistrate/ District Collector. A District Expert Appraisal Committee (DEAC) has also been constituted. The MoEFCC has also notified the constitution of DEIAA and DEAC vide notification SO No. 190 (E) dated 20.01.2016.
The MoEFCC has further clarified the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and issued the amendments in the EIA Notification, 2006 on 01.07.2016 for mining of minor minerals, in situation of a large number of leases or quarry licenses of very small size in contiguous area.
The MoEFCC has made online application system so that the Project Proponents can apply their proposal online and also track it. Further, the Ministry has also launched the portal of SEIAA and DEIAA for online application for grant of Environmental Clearances.
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